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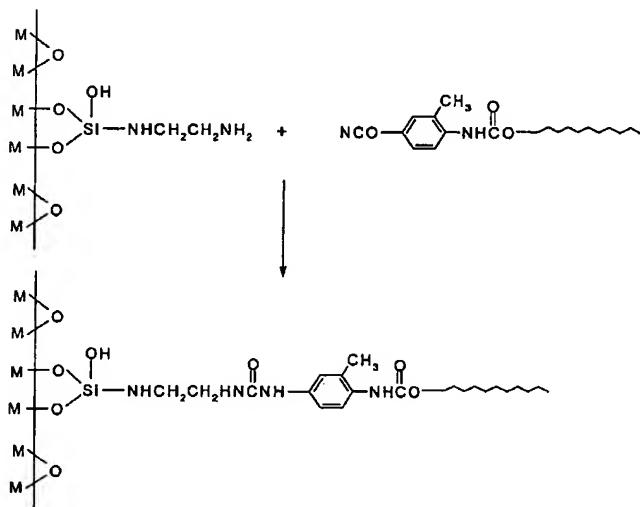
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(54) Title: TREATING SURFACES TO ENHANCE BIO-COMPATIBILITY



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(57) Abstract: A metal, glass or ceramics article, for example a stent, having at its surface oxide or hydroxide is treated to enhance the biocompatibility and/or physical characteristics of the surface. The surface is de-greased and primed by contact with an alkoxy silane in a aprotic organic solvent in the presence of an acid catalyst so that the alkoxy silane molecules react with the oxide or hydroxide of said surface to form covalent bonds, the alkoxy silane further comprising one or more amino, hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or acid anhydride groups. A polymer, e.g. carbodimethyl cellulose, is then covalently coupled to said surface *via* said amino, hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or acid anhydride groups, after which biologically active materials may be coupled to the polymer. Such materials may include an anti-coagulating agent or anti-platelet agent and an agent that inhibits smooth cell proliferation and restenosis.



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TREATING SURFACES TO ENHANCE BIO-COMPATIBILITY

This invention relates to a method of treating a stent or other metal, glass or ceramics article having at its surface oxide or hydroxide to enhance the bio-compatibility and/or 5 physical characteristics of the surface

EP-A-0433011 discloses that since the mid-to late 1980s, intra-arterial stents had found extensive use as a treatment to prevent restenosis subsequent to balloon angioplasty or atherectomy. A recurrent problem was (and continues to be) that excessive tissue growth 10 (intimal hyperplasia) at the site of the balloon dilation or atherectomy plaque excision results in restenosis of the artery. One possible solution to this problem (US-A-4768507) had been to coat the stent with an anti-thrombogenic surface so as to reduce platelet fibrin deposition. But although an anti-thrombogenic coating can prevent acute thrombotic arterial closure and decrease the need for anticoagulant drug therapy, there is still an urgent 15 need to decrease restenosis, which is caused by intimal hyperplasia.

It is well known that radiation therapy can reduce the proliferation of rapidly growing cancer cells in a malignant tumour, and in EP-A-0433011 use was made of this property by providing a stent comprising a tubular structure insertable into an artery and locatable 20 therein to maintain the lumen of the artery patent, wherein the stent comprises or is constructed of a material that is radioactive. In EP-A-0566245 it was reported that an intraluminal stent comprising fibrin is capable of reducing the incidence of restenosis at the site of a vascular injury and can also serve as a matrix for the local administration of drugs to the site of a vascular injury. EP-A-0701802 disclosed a drug eluting intravascular stent 25 comprising: (a) a generally cylindrical stent body; (b) a solid composite of a polymer and a therapeutic substance in an adherent layer on the stent body; and (c) fibrin in an adherent layer on the composite.

US-A-5356433 discloses the treatment of a stent or other medical device by the alleged 30 formation of covalent linkages between a biologically active agent and a metallic surface. In one example tantalum stents were primed with a solution in ethanol of *N*-(2-aminoethyl-3-aminopropyl)trimethoxysilane so that a bond was formed between the tantalum oxide

- layer on the surface of the stents and the silicon of the silane on curing at 110°C. Heparin is then coupled to the amino groups using 1,3-ethyldimethyl-aminopropyl carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC). In a second example, an ethanolic solution of an aminofunctional polymeric silane, trimethylsilylpropyl substituted polyethylenediamine is bonded to the 5 surface of tantalum stents, also with curing at 110°C, after which heparin was coupled to the coating using EDC. Other examples use stainless steel wire, platinum tungsten wire and aminopropyl-trimethoxysilane as primer. However, priming has to be carried out with heating.
- 10 The present applicants have found experimentally, as described below, that covalent bonds to the metal surface are not formed under the conditions described. This is believed to be because the water, which is inevitably present in the ethanol, hydrolyses the linkages between the methoxy groups and silicon and because the reaction between the trimethoxysilane groups and surface oxide requires a catalyst that is absent.
- 15 US 6,013,855 (United States Surgical) discloses a method of attaching hydrophilic polymers to the surface of an article having a plurality of hydroxyl or oxide groups attached thereto. The method involves exposing the surfaces to a silanated hydrophilic polymer, for example $(RO)_3SiR'$ (-urea link-)PVA, dissolved in a 95:5 alcohol to water 20 solution. As an alternative to PVA, a natural polymer such as dextran can be used. As mentioned above in relation to US-A-5356433, it is believed that the use of an aqueous alcoholic solvent does not result in covalent bonds with the article surface. Also, the fact that the polymer and silane are coupled prior to reaction with the article surface means that it is difficult to control the amount of polymer attached to the surface. This is because the 25 oxide and hydroxide groups on the surface are not particularly accessible, making it difficult to couple the silanated polymer thereto.
- US 6,248,127 (Medtronic AVE, Inc.) discloses a biocompatible coating comprising a silane having isocyanate functionality to which a biocompatible molecule such as heparin 30 can be attached. Optionally, a linking group such as an organic chain can be present between the silane and the isocyanate group. The coating can be applied in a single layer and a primer is not required.

US 6,387,450 (Medtronic AVE, Inc.) relates to a coating composition comprising hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof and a blocked polyisocyanate in a solvent comprising water.

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US 5,053,048 (Cordis Corporation) discloses a thromboresistant coating comprising a copolymer of aminosilane or aminosiloxane and a silane which is not an amino silane. This mixture forms a three dimensional matrix on the surface of the base substrate and an antithrombogenic bioactive such as heparin is then attached to the substrate via the coating.

- 10 The coating is dried at high humidity, and it is believed therefore that the water present causes hydrolysis of the alkoxy/silicon bonds. Also, the reaction is carried out in the absence of any catalyst for promoting the formation of covalent bonds between the surface oxide/hydroxide groups and the alkoxy silane.
- 15 The present applicants have previously disclosed in WO 98/55162 a method of treating stent or other metal, glass or ceramics article having at its surface oxide or hydroxide to enhance the bio-compatibility and/or physical characteristics of the surface, said method comprising the steps of priming said surface by means of functional molecules each of which has at least one alkoxy silane group which can form at least one first covalent bond
- 20 by reaction with the oxide or hydroxide of said surface and at least one other group which can participate in free-radical polymerisation, the priming being carried out by contacting said surface in an aprotic organic solvent with said functional molecules and with an acid catalyst for forming said first covalent bond; and forming chains covalently attached to said other group of the functional molecules by free-radical polymerisation of at least one
- 25 polymerizable monomer which imparts hydrophilic properties to said chains.

It is an object of the invention to provide a simpler process for forming an anti-thrombogenic and/or anti-restenosis layer on a stent or other oxide-coated implantable article that is simpler to use than in the prior art and which does not require free-radical polymerisation.

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That problem is addressed, according to the invention by a method of treating an article having at its surface oxide or hydroxide, said method comprising the steps of priming said surface by contact with an alkoxy silane in an aprotic organic solvent in the presence of an acid catalyst so that the alkoxy silane molecules react with the oxide or hydroxide of said surface to form covalent bonds, the alkoxy silane optionally comprising one or more amino, hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or acid anhydride groups; and covalently coupling a polymer to said primed surface via said alkoxy silane..

The article that is to be treated according to the invention may be of stainless steel or nitanol. It may be a coronary stent (endovascular prosthesis), peripheral stent, heat exchanger used in conjunction with biological material, guide wire used in angioplasty, artificial heart valve, device is used for storage and/or transfer of biological material or other medical device. The stent may be of any of the following types: a coil spring stent; a thermal shaped memory alloy stent; a self-expanding steel spiral stent; a self-expandable stainless steel mesh stent; or a balloon expanding stent comprising inter-digitating coils.

Prior to priming the surface of the article should be cleaned to remove grease and other contaminants. A suitable cleaning procedure involves treatment with aqueous alkali, e.g. NaOH with sonication, followed by rinsing with water and oven drying.

The priming step involves contacting the article with alkoxy silane in an aprotic organic solvent, for example toluene, in the presence of an acid catalyst which will normally be an organic acid that is compatible with and can dissolve in the aprotic organic solvent, catalyst, for example glacial acetic acid, followed by rinsing in fresh aprotic organic solvent to remove unreacted material, after which drying is carried out at an elevated temperature e.g. about 50-55°C and preferably under vacuum. Further washing is carried out after drying using the aprotic organic solvent followed by a water-miscible organic solvent and finally with deionised water. The intermediate solvent assists in the removal of hydrolysis by-products of the alkoxy silane. The use of low temperatures is important to stability, and the structure of nitanol, in particular, which is used for self-expanding stents, is vulnerable to changes in structure leading to degradation in properties if heated

significantly above 55°. The purpose of the priming step is to produce a monolayer rather than a coating of the functionalising agent on the oxide film of the metal.

- Priming agents used may include alkoxy silanes of the formula $(RO)_3Si(R^1X)$ wherein R
- 5 represents methyl or ethyl and R^1 represents C_2-C_{10} alkyl in which one or more methylene groups may be replaced by $-NH-$ or $-O-$, C_2-C_{10} cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl, C_2-C_{10} aralkyl or monocyclic or bicyclic aryl and X represents amino, hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or acid anhydride. Preferably R^1 represents C_2-C_{10} alkyl in which one or more of the methylene groups is optionally replaced by $-NH-$ and X represents $-NH_2$, and an example
- 10 of a suitable priming agent is N-(3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyl)-ethylenediamine.

Reaction of the remaining reactive groups of the alkoxy silane with the polymeric material or "bridge" in the following step may be indirect via a linking intermediate or direct.

- 15 In indirect reaction, for example, a hydroxy- or amino-terminated alkoxy silane may be reacted with a linking intermediate in the form of an aliphatic or aromatic diisocyanate e.g. hexamethylene diisocyanate so that the first isocyanate group has formed a covalent bond with the hydroxy or amino functionality and the second isocyanate group is free and available to bond to hydroxy- or amino groups of the polymer bridge in a subsequent step.
- 20 Such a reaction is easy to carry out by contact of the functionalized article with the diisocyanate in an aprotic organic solvent. It has the advantages that firstly the resulting adduct has highly reactive isocyanate groups which readily form covalent bonds with amino or hydroxyl groups of a 'bridging' polymer to be attached in a subsequent step, secondly that both the formation of the adduct and the reaction with the bridging polymer
- 25 can be carried out under mild conditions and thirdly that the "spacer arms" which link silicon attached to oxide of the metal surface with the amino or other terminal functionality of the primer and which are provided e.g. by a chain of alkylene groups are further extended.
- 30 Where the bridging polymer is itself a biological active relatively large molecule, as in the case of heparin, for example, extension of the spacer arms improves the availability of the heparin or other large molecule and hence its biological effectiveness. Other linking

intermediates with reactive terminal groups may be used, for example a di-epoxy compound which will react with a range of terminal groups of the oxide-bound alkoxy silane and with a wide range of groups in intended bridging polymers. A further possibility in indirect reaction is to activate the terminal group, e.g. by converting terminal 5 amino to terminal isocyanate by reaction with thionyl chloride.

In the direct reaction alternative, the terminal group of the alkoxy silane may undergo condensation with available groups of the bridging polymer, for example an amide or ester-forming reaction. Thus an alkoxy silane that is hydroxy- or amino-terminated may be 10 reacted with a bridging polymer having available carboxyl groups, e.g. carboxymethyl cellulose. Correspondingly an alkoxy silane that is terminated by carboxyl or by acid anhydride may be reacted with hydroxyl groups of the intended bridging polymer.

The function of the bridging polymer which is at least an oligomer is firstly to provide sites 15 which can become covalently attached to the reactive groups of the alkoxy silane either directly or through an intermediate group as described above, and also to provide coupling sites for the biologically active material to be added later on. Each molecule of bridging polymer is relatively large compared to the alkoxy silane and has a multiplicity of coupling sites, so that the use of the bridging polymer enables a relatively high amount of the 20 biologically active material to be attached with some stability to the stent, for example so that it becomes released only slowly into physiological fluids and has slow release properties when *in situ* in the body.

Carbohydrates comprise a class of polymers that are suitable for use in the invention and 25 may include polysaccharide oligomers and polymers. Chemically modified celluloses e.g. carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) is a suitable material and may be used e.g. in molecular weights of 5000 – 1,000,000, preferably 150,000-500,000. Because of the viscosity of aqueous solutions of carboxymethyl cellulose, relatively dilute solutions are used and, for example, a functionalised stent may be rotated in a solution of 0.05 wt% of CMC sodium 30 salt. We have found that a strong bond is achieved, the carboxymethyl cellulose which is a highly water-soluble material remaining present on the stent or other functionalised oxide-coated material under prolonged washing e.g. for 72 hours at room temperature. CMC has

the advantage that it becomes gradually hydrolysed in the body and therefore inherently has the property of releasing any biologically active material coupled to it. Other polysaccharides can also be used, for example dextran or naturally occurring polysaccharides.

5

One material that may be used is heparin, which is a naturally occurring substance that consists of a polysaccharide with a heterogeneous structure and a molecular weight ranging from approximately 6000 to 30000 Dalton (atomic mass units). It prevents uncontrolled clotting by suppressing the activity of the coagulation system through complexing with 10 antithrombin (III), whose activity it powerfully enhances. Approximately one in three heparin molecules contains a sequence of highly specific structures to which antithrombin binds with high affinity. When bound to the specific sequence, the coagulation enzymes are inhibited at a rate that is several orders of magnitude higher than in the absence of Heparin. Thus, the heparin molecule is not in itself an inhibitor but acts as a catalyst for 15 natural control mechanisms without being consumed during the anticoagulation process. The catalytic nature of heparin is a desirable property for the creation of a bioactive surface, because the immobilised heparin is not functionally exhausted during exposure to blood but remains a stable active catalyst on the surface. In addition to acting as a polysaccharide and an anti-clotting agent, heparin also offers sites for the attachment of 20 small biologically active molecules.

Other non-carbohydrate polymers having available reactive groups such as -OH and -COOH can also be used, for example polyacrylic acid sodium salt having a molecular weight of 2000 or above and polyvinylalcohol. Hyperbranched polymers may also be used, 25 see Anders Hult *et al.*, *Adv. Polymer Sc.*, 143 (1999) pp. 1-34, the end groups being selected to be reactable with the alkoxy silane adhered to the oxide layer of the substrate.

Various biologically active materials may be attached to the bridging polymer. Such materials may include a second polymer that is covalently bonded to or ionically attracted 30 to the bridging polymer via active sites. The second polymer may itself carry a biologically active compound that may be the same as or different from a small molecule active compound attached to the bridging polymer covalently or by ionic attraction. For example,

if the bridging polymer does not itself have anti-thrombogenic properties, then there may be bonded thereto an anti-thrombogenic agent that may be an anticoagulant or an anti-platelet agent.

- 5 Suitable anti-coagulants include heparin, and hirudin, and there may also be used as anti-platelet agent a prostaglandin or analog thereof. Thus heparin may be attached to a stent or other implantable device that firstly has been functionalized with alkoxysilane and secondly has attached thereto a bridging polymer that is carboxymethyl cellulose or other carbohydrate. The heparin may be in modified form e.g. as described in our WO 98/55162
- 10 and may be attached to a carbohydrate or other bridging polymer using, for example, a di-epoxy or di-isocyanate linker which is reacted first with sites on the bridging polymer and second with sites on the heparin or derivative.

- Also attachable to the bridging polymer is a compound that inhibits smooth cell proliferation and restenosis, for example mitoxantrone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, paclitaxel (Taxol) or an analog thereof such as docetaxel (Taxotere), Taxane being used in the Quanam drug eluting stent which has been the subject of clinical trials, see also C. Herdeg *et al.*, *Semin. Intervent. Cardiol.* 1998; 3, pp. 197-199, rapamycin or actinomycin D. Coupling of both an anti-coagulant such as heparin or hirudin and an inhibitor of smooth cell proliferation is expected to give very good response in both the short and longer term.

- Use of radiolabelled materials as anti-proliferative agents is also possible. Attachment may be achieved by simply contacting the substrate with a solution of the biologically active material or materials, and allowing affinity between the biologically active compound and the polymer to bring about the required deposition of the active compound on the substrate. An advantage of this arrangement is that the biologically active compound is then available for local delivery and gradual release at the site where it is required.
- 30 The invention is further illustrated in the following examples.

Example 1**1 Cleaning.**

- 5 A commercially available stainless steel stent on a holder was placed into a vessel containing 0.1M aqueous NaOH. It was placed in an ultrasonic bath (Ultrawave U50 supplied by Ultrawave Limited of Cardiff UK) and sonicated for 15 minutes, rinsed briefly in deionised water followed by further sonication for 15 minutes in fresh deionised water. After a final brief rinse with deionised water the sample was dried for 60 hours at 130°C in
10 an oven and allowed to cool in a dry atmosphere.

2 Functionalisation

- The cooled sample was placed on a spindle holder attached to an overhead stirrer, and
15 immersed in a solution of 10 drops of glacial acetic acid in 190 g of toluene in a measuring cylinder. A nitrogen line and a Parafilm (a thin transparent self-clinging film) cover were fitted to the cylinder to provide a nitrogen blanket above the toluene solution. With the stirrer rotating the spindle at a low speed, 9.5 ml of N(3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyl)-
ethylene diamine (TMSPEA) (Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co) was injected by syringe
20 through the nitrogen blanket into the toluene solution, after which the stirring continued for 15 minutes. The nitrogen line and Parafilm cover were then removed, after which the toluene reaction solution was replaced with toluene, the sample was rotated in this mixture for 15 minutes to remove any excess reagents, and dried at 50°C under vacuum (0.9 bar) for 24 hours. It was then rinsed further with a series of solvents: toluene, methanol, and
25 deionised water, rotating the samples on a holder in the solvent for about 15 minutes each using an overhead stirrer.

3 Carboxymethylcellulose Coupling

- 30 Reaction Solution A was prepared and comprised 150 g of a 0.5% by weight solution of Blanose 7H3 SXF (carboxymethylcellulose, Honeywell & Stein Ltd, Sutton, Surrey, UK) in deionised water, to which was added 0.045 g of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)

carbodiimide hydrochloride (Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co) with stirring. This solution was then acidified with 1M HCl to a pH between 5 to 6. After acidification the solution was left stirring for 30 minutes, with pH monitoring, after which it was ready for use.

- 5 The sample from functionalisation, still on a spindle, was fitted to an overhead stirrer and immersed in reaction solution A, after which the sample holder was rotated for about 4 hours. The sample was then rinsed in de-ionized water for a period of one hour with rotating by means of the stirrer, and with change of the rinse water every 15 minutes, after which the sample was allowed to drain.

10

4 Mitoxantrone coupling and Release.

- A 0.01% solution of mitoxantrone (Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co) was made up in deionised water. The samples are each immersed in 4mls of the solution and left rolling on a
- 15 Spiramix (Denley Spiramix 5) for ~17 hours (Samples placed in 100*16mm R.B. tube clarified polypropylene supplied by Jencons PLC.). After this time they were rinsed in deionised water until there was no evidence of the mitoxantrone being removed in the water. 4 mls of phosphate buffered saline solution (PBS) was then pipetted into a clean sample tube and the sample added. The samples were left in this solution for 1 hour on the
- 20 Spiramix, after which absorbances were recorded by spectrophotometer at 660 nm. The solutions were then transferred back into the appropriate sample tube and 5 drops of 1M hydrochloric acid added from a dropping pipette. The samples were left for 10 minutes rolling on the Spiramix, after which an absorbance reading was recorded. Further readings were obtained after 1 hour or more to give a value for complete release of mitoxantrone.
- 25 The absorbances recorded for the release solutions at 660 nm gave an indication of the amount of mitoxantrone attached to the carboxymethylcellulose coating on each sample. By use of a calibration curve plotting known concentrations of mitoxantrone solutions against the absorbance of the solution at 660 nm, the mitoxantrone concentration of the release solution was determined and from this the amount of mitoxantrone attached to each
- 30 device. An absorbance of 0.09 at 660 nm was obtained for the 1 hour release in phosphate buffered saline solution, and an absorbance of 0.17 for the complete release of Mitoxantrone. This equates to approximately 31 micrograms of mitoxantrone attached to

the stent. The above results show that the majority of the mitoxantrone has become tightly bound to the stent so that it is likely to become released only slowly under physiological conditions, and also that the compound can be applied in amounts that are effective to retard or inhibit cell growth leading to restenosis.

5

Example 2

A commercially available stainless steel stent was prepared as in Example 1 up to and including stage 2, and then coupled with poly(acrylic acid) partial sodium salt as described 10 below:

Poly(acrylic acid) Coupling

Reaction Solution B was prepared by making up 150g of a 0.5% by weight aqueous 15 solution of poly(acrylic acid) partial sodium salt (Average Mw ~2000 by GPC, sodium content 0.6% supplied as a 60% solution in water by Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co). The pH of the solution was adjusted to between 5 to 6 by addition of 0.1M aqueous NaOH. Then 0.21 g of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide hydrochloride (Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co) was added to the solution, and the solution was allowed to stand for 30 20 minutes, after which it was ready for use.

The sample from functionalization with TMSPEA, still on a spindle, was fitted to an overhead stirrer and immersed in reaction solution B and the sample holder rotated for about 4 hours. The sample was then rinsed in de-ionized water with rotation for 1 hour, 25 changing the rinse water every 15 minutes. The rinsed sample was allowed to drain.

The sample was then processed as in section 4 of Example 1 to give an absorbance value of 0.037 at 660 nm when released for 10 minutes in 4 ml of phosphate buffered saline solution with 5 drops of 1 M HCl, which absorbance value equates to 7 micrograms of 30 mitoxantrone attached to the stent. The above results demonstrate that polyacrylic acid can be used as an alternative to carboxymethylcellulose and that useful quantities of mitoxantrone or other useful materials can be coupled to the polyacrylic acid.

Example 3

A stainless steel heat exchange tube was prepared as in Example 1 up to (and including)
5 stage 2, and then coupled with heparin as detailed below.

Heparin Coupling

Reaction Solution C was prepared by dissolving 0.9 g of heparin (Heparin Sodium,
10 USP/EP/JP lyophilized, Celsius Laboratories Inc, Cincinnati, USA) in 149.1 g of deionised
water. To this solution 0.045 g of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide
hydrochloride (Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co) was added, after which the solution was
stirred to dissolve the added material and its pH was adjusted with 1M HCl to between 5
and 6. The solution was allowed to stand, with pH monitoring, for 30 minutes, after which
15 it was ready for use.

Samples from functionalisation with TMSPEA, still on a spindle, were fitted to an
overhead stirrer and immersed in reaction solution C and the sample holder rotated for
about 4 hours. The samples were then rinsed in de-ionized water, using the stirrer to rotate
20 them, for 1 hour, changing the rinse water every 15 minutes. After rinsing the samples
were allowed to drain and processed as in section 4 of Example 1 to give the release values
and below. The complete release values equate to 31 and 36 micrograms of mitoxantrone
attached to the heparin coated devices

25

	1 Hour PBS	PBS +HCl 10mins	PBS+HCl 2hours
Sample 1	0.035	0.172	0.164
Sample 2	0.040	0.203	0.194

The above example demonstrates the coupling of heparin to functionalised devices.

Example 4

- Stainless steel heat exchange tubes which mimic stents were prepared in an identical manner to Example 1 up until the Carboxymethylcellulose coupling stage, after which
- 5 three concentrations of Blanose 7H3 SXF were prepared (0.1%, 0.05% and 0.025% by weight solutions of Blanose 7H3 SXF were prepared each in 150 mls) to which 0.03% 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride was added and each acidified as in Example 1. The rest of the procedure was as Example 1. The absorbances of the release solutions were determined at 660 nm and the corresponding amount of
- 10 mitoxantrone attached determined from a calibration graph. The values are tabulated below.

7H3 SXF concentration	1 Hour PBS	10 mins PBS+ dil HCl	> 1 hour PBS + dil HCl	Mitoxantrone attached (μ g)
0.1%	0.23	0.57	0.60	110
0.05%	0.21	0.52	0.54	98
0.025%	0.14	0.37	0.39	71

- 15 The above results show that CMC can be used in relatively low concentrations which are less viscous and therefore have better physical characteristics for uniform penetration into the mesh or other interstices of a stent, without there being a commensurate reduction in the amount of active compound that can be coupled to the stent.

Example 5

Example 1 was repeated with stainless steel heat exchange tubes retaining samples after each process (cleaning, functionalisation, and carboxymethylcellulose coupling). These 5 samples were all stained with mitoxantrone as in section 4 of Example 1 and then the mitoxantrone was released in PBS for 1 hour and with added dilute hydrochloric acid for 10 minutes, taking absorbance readings on a UV/Vis spectrometer (see table below). The final release values were then converted to amount of mitoxantrone per device using a calibration chart. The results in the table below show that a significant increase in the drug 10 uptake is seen for the carboxymethylcellulose treated devices:

Sample	PBS 1 hour	PBS+ dilute HCl 10 mins	Mitoxantrone on tube (μ g)
Cleaned	0.02	0.03	5.5
TMSPEA functionalised	0.01	0.01	1.8
Fully treated	0.18	1.82	331

The above results show that minimal amounts of active material become attached unless both the functionalization and the CMC coupling procedures are followed.

15

Example 6

Samples (stainless steel heat exchange tubes) were prepared as in Example 3 (except 30 minutes reaction time was used in functionalisation rather than the 15 minutes used in 20 Example 1) up to the heparin coupling stage. The heparin coupling was performed at four different levels of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) as detailed in the below table.

Reaction Solution C Compositions for Example 6.

Reaction Solution	% w heparin	%w EDC
1	0.6	0.03
2	0.6	0.09
3	0.6	0.15
4	0.6	0.21

- Each reaction was carried out using the general method from Example 3, then taken through to mitoxantrone take up and release. The absorbances of the release solutions were used to determine the amount of mitoxantrone taken up by each device, as displayed in the table below:

Reaction Solution	Mitoxantrone take up by device (μg)
1	38
2	36
3	38
4	42

- The above results show that the amount of mitoxantrone taken up by the device to which it is to be coupled is relatively insensitive to EDC/heparin ratio within the ranges tested.

- A TMSPEA functionalised tube was retained after stage 2 of the process in this example so that the effectiveness of the reaction could be checked. This used a solution of Eosin Y sodium salt to couple with the amine group of the TMSPEA on the sample's surface to visibly show coverage and then the release of the Eosin Y and its spectrometric determination to determine the amount coupled.

Eosin Y Coupling.

- The sample was placed in a sample tube (100*16mm R.B. tubes clarified polypropylene, Jencons PLC) and rolled on the Spiramix (Denley Spiramix 5) in approximately 4-6 mls of
- 5 a 0.4% aqueous solution of eosin Y sodium salt (Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co) for approximately 1 hour, after which the sample was rinsed several times with deionised water until no visible stain was seen in the rinse. Visually, the tube had a relatively uniform and moderately pink stain.
- 10 Once rinsing had been completed, the sample was placed in a 50 ml sample tube and 4mls of 0.1 M NaOH was pipetted into it, the sample tube was placed on the Spiramix and it was rolled for ~ 5 minutes. 20 mls of deionised water was then pipetted into the solution and the absorbance of the resulting solution was recorded at 517 nm using a spectrophotometer. The absorbance value was then converted into an amount of eosin Y attached to the sample
- 15 by using a calibration graph of absorbance readings for known amounts of eosin Y sodium salt. The absorbance reading for the release solution was 0.83 at 517 nm corresponding to 205 µg of eosin Y.

The above results show that the functionalization step had worked as intended and that a

20 uniform coverage of the device (stent or tube) with eosin or other material to be coupled thereto could be achieved.

Example 7

- 25 Example 3 was repeated using a commercially available stent and a heparin/EDC solution in the coupling stage of the composition used in Reaction Solution 1 of Example 6. The released stent showed a mitoxantrone attachment of 9 micrograms. The practical equivalence of a tube and a stent was confirmed.

Example 8

Six samples (stainless steel heat exchanger tubes available from Polystan) were cleaned as in section 1 of Example 1. The samples were then immersed in a solution of 2 mls of 5 TMSPEA in 98 g of (95%v/v) ethanol, which was stirred by means of a magnetic follower for 3 minutes. The samples were then removed, and placed in an oven at 110 °C for 10 minutes. The samples were removed from the oven and three were reserved while the other three were rinsed first in (95%v/v) ethanol for 15 minutes, followed by deionised water for 15 minutes, using a suitable holder fitted to an overhead stirrer to rotate the samples in 10 each solvent. The samples were then treated using eosin Y sodium salt, which causes the staining of any amine functional groups present on the surface as described below.

Eosin Y Coupling.

- 15 All six samples were placed in sample tubes (100*16mm R.B. tubes clarified polypropylene, Jencons PLC) and rolled on the Spiramix (Denley Spiramix 5) in approximately 4-6 mls of a 0.4% aqueous solution of eosin Y sodium salt (Sigma Aldrich chemical co) for approximately 1 hour. After this time the samples were rinsed several times with deionised water until no visible stain was seen in the rinses.
- 20 Once rinsing had been completed, two samples from the ethanol rinsed and unrinsed sets were placed in 50ml sample tubes and 4mls of 0.1 M NaOH was pipetted into each. The sample tubes were placed on the Spiramix and rolled for ~ 5 minutes. 20 mls of deionised water was then pipetted into each sample and the absorbance of the resulting solution was recorded at 517 nm using a Jenway 6305 UV/Vis spectrophotometer. The values recorded were then converted into amounts of eosin Y attached to the samples by using a calibration graph of absorbance readings for known amounts of eosin Y sodium salt. Visual examination of the remaining samples showed patchy staining with the ethanol rinsed sample having a few patches of weak staining and the unrinsed sample having patches of 25 stain on the metal.
- 30

Sample	Absorbance at 517 nm	Eosin Y attached (ug)
No Rinse 1	0.84	207
No Rinse 2	0.97	239
Rinsed 1	0.05	12
Rinsed 2	0.04	10

The values for un-rinsed tubes were similar to those seen in Example 6, but were visually patchy. The above results, which were intended to illustrate the priming procedure of Example 1 of US 5356433, show that useful attachment is not obtained under these conditions and that the majority of the apparently bonded material is loosely attached and removed by simple rinsing.

Example 9

10 Example 3 was repeated using a higher molecular weight polyacrylic acid salt (polyacrylic acid, sodium salt, average Mw ca. 30,000, Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co) in place of the previous one, and using heat exchange tubes as the sample devices.

15 Following complete release of mitoxantrone, as in Example 3, an absorbance reading of 0.33 at 660 nm was obtained for the release solution, corresponding to 60 micrograms of the drug. This showed that a range of molecular weights of poly(acrylic acid) could be used in the process to obtain useable levels of drug coupling.

Example 10

20 A commercially available stainless steel stent was cleaned and functionalised following the method in sections 1 and 2 of Example 1.

A polymer (DK01) was then prepared as set out below.

Procedure for synthesis of DK01

Chemical	Supplier	Catalogue number
anhydrous toluene	Aldrich	24,451
poly(propylene glycol) tolylene diisocyanate terminated (PPGTDI) MW = 2,300	Aldrich	43,349-7
poly(dimethylsiloxane) bis (3-amino propyl) terminated (PDMSBAP) MW = 27,000	Aldrich	48,169
(3-aminopropyl)-trimethoxysilane	Aldrich	28,177-8
nitrogen	Air Products	

- 5 1. A solution of PDMSBAP (5.00 g) in anhydrous toluene (63.5 g) was made up.
 2. A solution of PPGTDI (1.00 g) in anhydrous toluene (63.5 g) was made up.
 3. The solution of PPGTDI was slowly added to the solution of PDMSBAP with mixing under a blanket of nitrogen.
 4. The reaction mixture was allowed to mix for 90 mins and then (3-aminopropyl)-
 10 trimethoxysilane (0.75 g) was added.
 5. The reaction solution was mixed for a further hour.

The reaction to produce DK01 is shown in Figure 1.

15 Procedure for treating primed surface

The dried stent was dipped into a solution (Solution A) of "DK01" polymer and Colchicine (a bioactive) and slowly removed to give an even coating of the solution. The sample was initially air dried before being placed in an oven at 75°C for 21 hours.

Solution A: 0.20g of colchicine (as supplied by Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co) was dissolved in 2-propanol (as supplied by Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co) to give 10.09g of solution, then 10.11g of DK01a solution (5% in toluene) was added and the resulting solution mixed.

5

The sample was then immersed in deionised water for 30 seconds, the excess water drained off on a tissue and the sample dried at 50°C for 30 minutes.

Figure 2 gives a schematic representation of what is thought to happen at the substrate 10 surface. As a result of curing the reactive functional groups of the polymer react with the functionalised surface and also with other functional groups on the molecule.

Without wishing to be constrained by theory, it is thought that unreacted trimethoxysilyl 15 groups on the primed surface hydrolyse to give hydroxyl groups. These then provide a site for the trimethoxysilyl end groups of polymer DK01 to react with. As a less preferred alternative, polymer DK01 could react with pendent hydroxyl or oxide groups on an unprimed surface.

Procedure for testing drug release properties

20

The stent was placed in a tube containing 4mls of Phosphate Buffered Saline solution (prepared from tablets supplied by Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co by dissolving 1 tablet in 200mls of deionised water) and agitated by rolling. The saline solution was sampled at intervals and its colchicine content determined by monitoring its absorbance at 350nm 25 using UV/Vis Spectrometry. A calibration plot for various concentrations of Colchicine (4 to 99 micrograms) in solution against the solution's absorbance at 350nm was constructed to convert sample's release absorbance into drug release values in micrograms per stent. The graph of Colchicine released against release time is plotted in Figure 3. This demonstrates that the DK01 polymer is a suitable material for loading and slow release of 30 Colchicine.

Example 11

A commercially available stainless steel stent was cleaned and functionalised following the method in sections 1 and 2 of Example 1.

5

A polymer (DK05) was then prepared as set out below.

Procedure for synthesis of DK05

Chemical	Supplier	Catalogue number	Quantity
anhydrous toluene	Aldrich	24,451	119 g (138 ml)
poly(propylene glycol) tolylene diisocyanate terminated MW = 2,300	Aldrich	43,349-7	3.5 g
poly(dimethylsiloxane) bis (3-amino propyl) terminated MW = 27,000	Aldrich	48,169	17.5 g
nitrogen	Air Products		

10

1. All glassware was thoroughly dried prior to use.
2. A solution of poly(dimethylsiloxane) bis (3-amino propyl) terminated (17.5 g) in toluene (69 ml) was made up in a flat bottomed flask and purged with nitrogen. The solution was mixed until the polymer was completely dissolved.
- 15 3. A solution of poly(propylene glycol) tolylene diisocyanate terminated (3.5 g) in toluene (69 ml) was also made up in a flat bottomed flask and purged with nitrogen. The solution was mixed until the polymer was completely dissolved.
4. The three necked flask was equipped with a dropping funnel, magnetic stirrer bar, nitrogen supply and Dreschel bottle filled with glycerol at the nitrogen outlet.
- 20 5. The solution of poly(dimethylsiloxane) bis (3-amino propyl) terminated was added to the flask and the solution of poly(propylene glycol) tolylene diisocyanate terminated was added to the dropping funnel.
6. The solution of poly(propylene glycol) tolylene diisocyanate terminated was added slowly to the solution of poly(propylene glycol) tolylene diisocyanate terminated and the mixing was continued for a further 90 min.

25

7. The resultant polymer solution was then stored in a flat bottomed flask equipped with a Subaseal under a nitrogen atmosphere.

The reaction to produce DK05 is shown in Figure 4.

5

Procedure for treating primed surface

DK05 is coated onto the surface and cured so that the reactive end groups react with the functionalised surface and also with groups in the polymer backbone. The drug is loaded
10 by swelling the polymer with the drug solution and then removing the solvent to leave the drug in the coating. The process is shown schematically in Figure 5, and full details of the process are as follows:

15 The dried, functionalised stent was dipped into a 15.% w/w solution of DK05 in toluene and slowly removed to give an even coating. The sample was initially air dried before being placed in an oven at 75 °C at reduced pressure (-0.8 mBar) for 24 hours.

20 The stent was then rinsed by immersing in 3 aliquots of 2-propanol for 3 x 10 min followed by immersing in 3 aliquots of 2-propanol:deionised water (1:1 v/v) for 3 x 10 min. The stent was then dried at 75 °C at reduced pressure (-0.8 mBar) for 24 hours.

25 The polymer coated stent was placed in a 1% solution of colchicine in toluene : 2-propanol (1:1 v/v) for ~2 hr, followed by air drying before being placed in an oven at 75 °C at reduced pressure (-0.8 mBar) for 24 hours. The stent was then rinsed in deionised water for 1 min., followed by drying at 75 °C at reduced pressure (-0.8 mBar) for at least 2 hours.

Without wishing to be constrained by theory, it is thought that isocyanate end groups of the polymer react with the amine groups on the primer layer, to bond the polymer covalently to the surface. This is shown in Figure 6, in which the end group of the polymer is shown
30 and not the whole polymer structure..

The anchoring of the polymer to the primer layer could be occurring through one end group of the polymer or both end groups could react with the surface as shown in Figure 7.

Once the stent has been coated, the coating is cured at 75 °C for ~24 hr. During this curing
5 step, the isocyanate end groups react with urea groups in the polymer chain and this leads to cross-linking *via* biuret groups. This is shown in Figure 8.

Procedure for testing drug release

10 (a) Effect of identity of solvent

1. 8 Stainless steel heat exchanger tubes were functionalised as described previously.
2. The tubes were dipped in a 5% solution of DK05 in THF and then dried overnight at 75 °C under vacuum.
- 15 3. The tubes were rinsed the following day with toluene (15 min), 2-propanol (15 min), deionised water (15 min) and then 2-propanol (5 min). The tubes were air dried over night at room temperature.
4. 4 of the coated tubes were immersed in a 1% solution of colchicine in 2-propanol and 4 were immersed in a 1% solution of colchicine in 2-propanol:toluene (1:1) for 2 hr.
- 20 5. The tubes were then dried overnight at 50 °C and then immersed in deionised water for 30 sec and then dried again at 50 °C for 2-3 hr.
6. 6. Each tube was then placed in 4 ml of phosphate buffered saline (PBS) solution and agitated.
- 25 7. The PBS solution was analysed at intervals using UV/VIS spectroscopy. The absorbance of the solution was taken at 354 nm and this absorbance converted to a drug per tube released using a calibration curve. The drug per tube released was plotted against time and this is shown in the graph of Figure 9.

30 (b) Effect of concentration of bioactive

1. 8 Stainless steel heat exchanger tubes were functionalised as described previously.

2. The tubes were dipped in a 5% solution of DK05 in THF and then dried overnight at 75 °C under vacuum.
3. The tubes were rinsed the following day with toluene (15 min), 2-propanol (15 min), deionised water (15 min) and then 2-propanol (5 min). The tubes were dried at 50 °C for 2 hr.
4. 5 of the coated tubes were immersed in a 1% solution of colchicine in 2-propanol:toluene (1:1) and 4 of the coated tubes were immersed in a 2% solution of colchicine in 2-propanol:toluene (1:1). The tubes were left in the solutions for 2 hr and then dried overnight at 75 °C under vacuum.
- 10 5. The tubes were immersed in deionised water for 1 min and then dried at 75 °C under vacuum for 2.5 hr.
6. Each tube was then placed in 4 ml of phosphate buffered saline (PBS) solution and agitated.
7. The PBS solution was analysed at intervals using UV/VIS spectroscopy. The absorbance of the solution was taken at 354 nm and this absorbance converted to a drug per tube released using a calibration curve. The drug per tube released was plotted against time and this is shown in the graph of Figure 10.

(c) Effect of number of layers of coating

- 20 1. 8 Stainless steel heat exchanger tubes were functionalised as described previously.
2. The tubes were dipped in a 5% solution of DK05 in THF and then dried for 2 hr at 75 °C under vacuum.
3. Four of the tubes were given an extra coat at this stage and then all the tubes were dried at 75 °C under vacuum over night.
- 25 3. The tubes were rinsed the following day with toluene (15 min), 2-propanol (15 min), deionised water (15 min) and then 2-propanol (5 min). The tubes were dried at 75 °C under vacuum for 2 hr.
4. The tubes were then immersed in a 1% colchicine solution in 2-propanol:toluene (1:1) for 90 min, followed by drying at 75 °C under vacuum over night.
- 30 5. The tubes were immersed in deionised water for 1 min and then dried at 75 °C under vacuum for 2.5 hr.

6. Each tube was then placed in 4 ml of phosphate buffered saline (PBS) solution and agitated.
7. The PBS solution was analysed at intervals using UV/VIS spectroscopy. The absorbance of the solution was taken at 354 nm and this absorbance converted to a drug per tube released using a calibration curve. The drug per tube released was plotted against time and this is shown in the graph of Figure 11.
- 5

Example 12

- 10 A polymer (DK08) was prepared as set out below.

Procedure for synthesis of DK08

Chemical	Supplier	Catalogue number	Quantity
Anhydrous THF	Aldrich	16,656-2	172 ml
3-(triethoxysilyl)propyl isocyanate	Aldrich	41,336-4	7.2 g
poly(vinyl butyral-co-vinyl alcohol-co-vinyl acetate) MW = 50,000-80,000	Aldrich	18,256-7	20.0g
nitrogen	Air Products		

- 15
1. Poly(vinyl butyral-co-vinyl alcohol-co-vinyl acetate) (20 g) was dried over night at 50 °C in a three necked round bottomed flask.
2. THF (172 ml) was added to the polymer and allowed to dissolve over a few hours.
3. The three necked flask was equipped with thermometer, overhead stirrer rod, nitrogen supply and Dreschel bottle filled with glycerol at the nitrogen outlet. The flask was placed in a heating mantle.
- 20
4. The solution was stirred with a nitrogen purge whilst 3-(triethoxysilyl)propyl isocyanate (7.2 g) was added.
5. The solution was heated to 30-40 °C for 1.5 hr followed by no heating for 16 hr
- 25
- followed by heating at 30-40 °C for 6 hr.
6. The solution was then stored under nitrogen.

Poly(vinyl butyral-co-vinyl alcohol-co-vinyl acetate) was modified by reacting the hydroxyl group of the vinyl alcohol unit with 3-(triethoxysilyl)propyl isocyanate. This produced a pendant triethoxysilane group to the polymer, which can react with any 5 hydroxyl groups on the surface or cross link with other triethoxysilane groups on other polymer chains. What is thought to be the reaction scheme is shown in Figure 12.

A bioactive can be mixed with the polymer prior to coating. This results in a dried coating on the surface of polymer and bioactive mixed together. When the polymer/ bioactive 10 coating is immersed in an aqueous media, the bioactive leaches out by the aqueous media diffusing into the coating, dissolving the bioactive and then diffusing out.

Example 13

15 This system differs from the others described so far as the reactive groups are present on the surface and not on the polymer. The drug is loaded with the polymer and the coating is anchored to the metal by covalent bonding through the triethoxysilyl group on the surface reacting with the hydroxyl group of the polymer. As the polymer is inert, there is no risk of the polymer reacting with the drug during coating.

20

Procedure for synthesis of DK09

1. A stainless steel plate was sonicated in 2-propanol for 15 mins and then in deionised water for 15 mins, followed by drying over night at 130 °C.
- 25 2. The plate was functionalised as in Example 2.
3. The amino group on the functionalised steel was then reacted with the isocyano group of 3-(triethoxysilyl) isocyanate to form a urea linkage, yielding triethoxysilyl groups on the surface. This was performed by adding the stainless steel plate to a solution of 3-(triethoxysilyl)isocyanate (9 ml) in anhydrous toluene (219 ml). The plate was immersed in the solution for 15 mins under a nitrogen blanket.
- 30 4. The plate was then rinsed in anhydrous toluene for 15 mins before being stored in a dessicator under vacuum overnight.

5. The plate was then dip coated in 10 g of a 15 % w/w solution of poly(vinyl butyral-co-vinyl alcohol-co-vinyl acetate) in 2-butanone containing 1 mg of rapamycin.
6. The plate was dried at 75 °C at reduced pressure over night.
7. 20 mg of coating was added to the stainless steel sheet, indicating that 13 µg of
5 drug was present.

What is thought to be the reaction scheme is shown in Figure 13.

Although drug could shown to be present by stripping the coating from the stainless steel
10 sheet in 2-propanol, no drug was released from the coating into phosphate buffered saline
solution.

Example 14

- 15 A metal surface was treated as in Example 13 but with the addition to the coating of a hydrophilic polymer (poly(ethylene glycol)):
 1. Stainless steel strips approx 6-8mm in width were cleaned in IPA with ultrasound for 15 mins, followed by drying at 130 °C for 30mins
 - 20 2. The plate was functionalised as in Example 2.
 3. The amino group on the functionalised steel was then reacted with the isocyanato group of 3-(triethoxysilyl) isocyanate to form a urea linkage, yielding triethoxysilyl groups on the surface. This was performed by adding the stainless steel plate to a solution of 3-(triethoxysilyl)isocyanate (9 ml) in anhydrous toluene (219 ml). The plate was immersed
25 in the solution for 15 mins under a nitrogen blanket.
 4. The plate was then rinsed in anhydrous toluene for 15 mins before being stored in a dessicator under vacuum overnight.
 5. A 20 % w/w solution of poly(vinyl butyral-co-vinyl alcohol-co-vinyl acetate) in 2-butanone (solution A) and a 10 % w/w solution of poly(ethylene glycol) in 2-butanone
30 (solution B) were prepared.
 6. A formulation (solution C) made of solution A and solution B (4:1 w/w) was prepared and mixed for 30 mins. The final solution had a concentration 15% w/w.

7. Colchicine (30mg) was added to the solution C (2 g) and ultrasonified for 5 mins, to give solution D.
8. The functionalised strips were dipped into solution D and remove at constant rate to give an even coating.
- 5 9. The coated strips were held over a hot plate for approx 15-30 secs to prevent evaporative cooling.
10. The strips were left to dry in air for 30 mins
11. The strips were placed in a 50 °C oven for 1 hour
12. The strips were placed in a vacuum oven at 50 °C, -800mbar for 1 hour.
- 10 13. Each strip was rinsed in deionised water for 1 minute with 1 change of water.
14. The colchicine was released by placing the strips in 4mls of phosphate buffered saline (PBS) solution, placing on a spiomix and measuring the absorbance at 350nm over a period of 100 hours
15. At the end of this period, the samples were placed in 2-propanol for 10mins with ultrasonification to release the remaining drug

Release profile in PBS solution of a typical strip is shown in Figure 14. The total amount of drug released after sonication in 2-propanol was 320 µg of colchicine

- 20 It has been shown that a coating of poly(vinyl butyral-co-vinyl alcohol-co-vinyl acetate) and colchicine but without poly(ethylene glycol) does not release the drug into phosphate buffered saline solution. Stripping the coating from the stainless steel sheet in 2-propanol showed that the drug was present in the coating. The addition of poly(ethylene glycol)increased the hydrophilicity of the coating, which increased the ability of coating to
- 25 release the drug. This demonstrates how by controlling the hydrophilic/hydrophobic ratio of the coating, the drug release kinetics can be controlled.

Example 15

- 30 This demonstrates the use of THF as an aprotic solvent suitable for functionalisation step 2 in Example 1 by Eosin Y staining of the functionalised layer as in Example 6.

Cleaning

- A stainless steel tube was placed on a suitable holder and placed into a vessel containing 2-propanol. The vessel was placed in an ultrasonic bath (Ultrawave U50 supplied by
5 Ultrawave Limited of Cardiff UK) and sonicated for 15 minutes. The sample was dried for 16 hours at 130°C in an oven.

Functionalisation

- 10 The sample was functionalised as in Section 2 of Example 1, except 190g of Tetrahydrafuran (HPLC grade, supplied by Sigma Aldrich Chemical Co) was used in place of toluene for the functionalisation solution, and post functionalisation drying was at 50°C for 24hours in an oven.

15 Eosin Y Staining

After drying for 2 hours at 50°C the sample was stained with Eosin Y solution, visually examined and then released as detailed in the Eosin Y Coupling section of Example 6.

- 20 The absorbance reading for the release solution was 0.19 at 517nm.

This demonstrates the use of Tetrahydrafuran as an aprotic functionalisation solvent.

CLAIMS

1. A method of treating an article having at its surface oxide or hydroxide, said method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 priming said surface by contact with an alkoxy silane in an aprotic organic solvent in the presence of an acid catalyst so that the alkoxy silane molecules react with the oxide or hydroxide of said surface to form covalent bonds, the alkoxy silane optionally comprising one or more amino, hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or acid anhydride groups; and covalently coupling a polymer to said primed surface via said alkoxy silane.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface is primed by an alkoxy silane of the formula $(RO)_3Si(R^1X)$ wherein R represents methyl, ethyl or propyl and R^1 represents C_2-C_{10} alkyl in which one or more methylene groups may be replaced by $-NH-$ or $-O-$, C_2-C_{10} cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl, C_2-C_{10} aralkyl or monocyclic or bicyclic aryl and X represents amino, hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or acid anhydride.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the alkoxy silane is a compound in which R^1 represents C_2-C_{10} alkyl in which one or more of the methylene groups is optionally replaced by $-NH-$ and X represents NH_2 .
- 20 4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the alkoxy silane is N-(3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyl)-ethylenediamine or N-(triethoxysilyl)-ethylenediamine.
- 25 5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said polymer includes two isocyanate groups.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the isocyanate groups are on either end of the polymer.
- 30 7. A method as claimed in claim 5 or 6, wherein said polymer is a reaction product of 1 mole of a diamine and two moles of a diisocyanate, with each amine group reacting with an isocyanate group to form a urea linkage.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said diamine is a polymer of Formula A:



5

wherein:

R^2 represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an

alkylaryl group, a polyalkylenoxy group, or a halide group,

m is a number from 1 to 12, and

10 n is a number from 1 to 5,000.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 or 8, wherein said diisocyanate is a polymer of Formula B:



wherein:

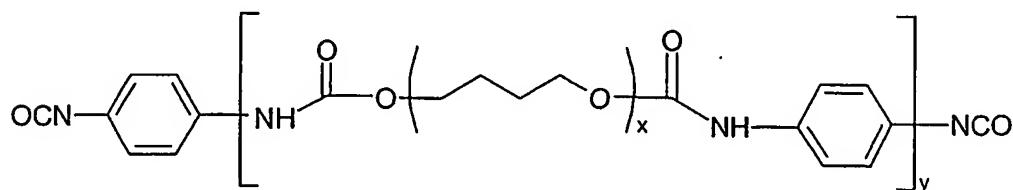
R^3 represents an alkyl or cycloalkyl group having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, an aryl group or an alkylaryl group

20 R^4 represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl, and

p is a number from 1 to 200,000.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein R^3 is alkylphenyl.

- 25 11. A method as claimed in any of claims 5 to 8, wherein said diisocyanate is poly[1,4 phenylene diisocyanate-co-poly(1,4-butanediol)] diisocyanate:



poly(1,4-butanediol),isophorone diisocyanate terminated,
poly(1,4-butanediol), tolylene 2,4-diisocyanate terminated,
poly(ethylene adipate) tolylene 2,4-diisocyanate terminated, or
poly(tetrafluoroethylene oxide-co-difluoromethylene oxide) diisocyanate.

5

12. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said polymer includes at least one pendent alkoxy silane group.

10 13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said polymer has two alkoxy silane groups, one on each end of the polymer.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said polymer is a reaction product of a diisocyanate and a molecule of the formula $(RO)_3Si(R^1)NH_2$, where R and R¹ are as defined in claim 2.

15

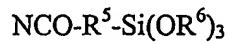
15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said diisocyanate is a reaction product of 1 mole of a diamine and two moles of a diisocyanate, with each amine group reacting with an isocyanate group to form a urea linkage.

20 16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said diamine is a polymer of Formula A and said diisocyanate is a polymer of Formula B as defined in any of claims 8 to 10.

25 17. A method as claimed in any of claims 14 to 16, wherein R is methyl and R¹ is propyl.

18. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said polymer is a reaction product of a molecule of Formula C:

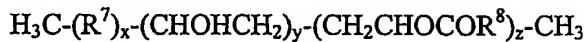
30



where R⁵ represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and R⁶ represents methyl or ethyl

and a polymer of Formula D:

5



wherein:

R⁷ and R⁸ independently represent alkyl or cycloalkyl of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an aryl or alkylaryl, wherein one or more of the carbon atoms of R⁷ or R⁸ may be substituted by O, S or N atoms;
10 and x, y and z are independently numbers from 1 to 200,000.

the isocyanate group of Formula C reacting with the hydroxyl group of Formula D to form
15 a urethane.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein R⁵ is propyl and R⁶ is ethyl.
20. A method as claimed in claim 18 or 19, wherein R⁷ represents 2-propyl-4-methyl-
20 1,3-dioxane and R⁸ represents methyl.
21. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein Formula D is a copolymer of vinyl butyral, vinyl alcohol and vinyl acetate.
- 25 22. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said polymer is a carbohydrate, polyacrylic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, a hyperbranched polymer, an anti-coagulant, or an antiproliferative agent.
23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said polymer is cellulosic.
- 30 24. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the alkoxy silane has an amino group and the polymer is carboxymethyl cellulose.

25. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said polymer is heparin.
26. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the anti-proliferative agent is
5 mitoxantrone, a taxol, a radiolabelled material.
27. A method as claimed in any of claim 1 to 4, wherein
 - (a) the surface is primed by contact with said alkoxy silane having an amino group,
 - (b) the primed surface is reacted with a molecule having an isocyanate group and a
10 pendent alkoxy silane group, so that the isocyanate group reacts with said amino group to form a urea linkage, and
 - (c) a polymer having at least one pendent hydroxyl group is covalently coupled to the surface by reaction between the hydroxyl group and said pendent alkoxy silane group.
- 15 28. A method of treating an article having at its surface amino groups, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) reacting the surface with a molecule having an isocyanate group and a pendent alkoxy silane group, so that the isocyanate group reacts with said amino group to form a urea linkage, and
 - 20 (b) covalently coupling a polymer having at least one pendent hydroxyl group to the surface by reaction between the hydroxyl group and said pendent alkoxy silane group.
- 25 29. A method as claimed in claim 27 or 28, wherein the molecule having an isocyanate group and a pendent alkoxy silane group is of Formula C as defined in claim 18 or 19.
30. A method as claimed in any of claims 27 to 29, wherein the polymer having at least one pendent hydroxyl group is of Formula B as defined in claim 18, 20 or 21.
- 30 31. A method of treating an article having at its surface amino groups, said method comprising the steps of:
covalently coupling a polymer to said surface wherein the polymer is said polymer as defined in any of claims 5 to 11.

32. A method of treating an article having at its surface oxide or hydroxide, said method comprising the steps of:
covalently coupling a polymer to said surface,
5 wherein the polymer is said polymer as defined in any of claims 12 to 21.
33. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a bioactive compound is mixed with said polymer prior to its being coupled to said primed surface.
- 10 34. A method as claimed in claim 33 wherein cross-links are formed between functional groups in said polymer after it is coupled to the surface.
- 15 35. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 32, wherein cross-links are formed between functional groups in said polymer after it is coupled to the surface and then the polymer coating is swollen in a solution of a bioactive compound in order to incorporate the bioactive into the polymer coating.
- 20 36. A method as claimed in any of claims 33 to 35 wherein the release characteristics of the bioactive are controlled by incorporating into the surface coating a hydrophilic moiety, a hydrophobic moiety, a copolymer segment, or a combination thereof.
- 25 37. A method as claimed in any of claims 33 to 36 wherein said bioactive is an anti-proliferative, an immunosuppressant, an anti-mitotic, an anti-inflammatory, a metalloproteinase inhibitor, an NO donors, an estradiols, an anti-schlerosing agent, a gene, a cell, an anti-sense drug, an anti-neoplastic, an anti-thrombin, or a migration inhibitor.
- 30 38. A method as claimed in any of claims 33 to 36 wherein said bioactive is colchicine, rapamycin or mitoxantrone.
39. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the article is formed of stainless steel or nitanol.

40. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the article is a coronary stent or a peripheral stent.

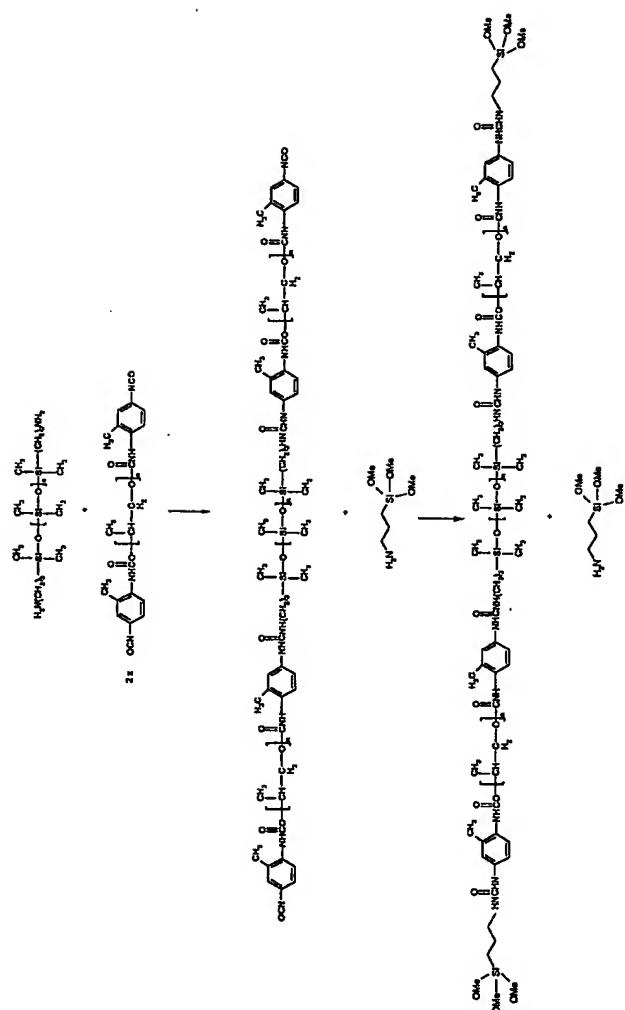


Figure 1

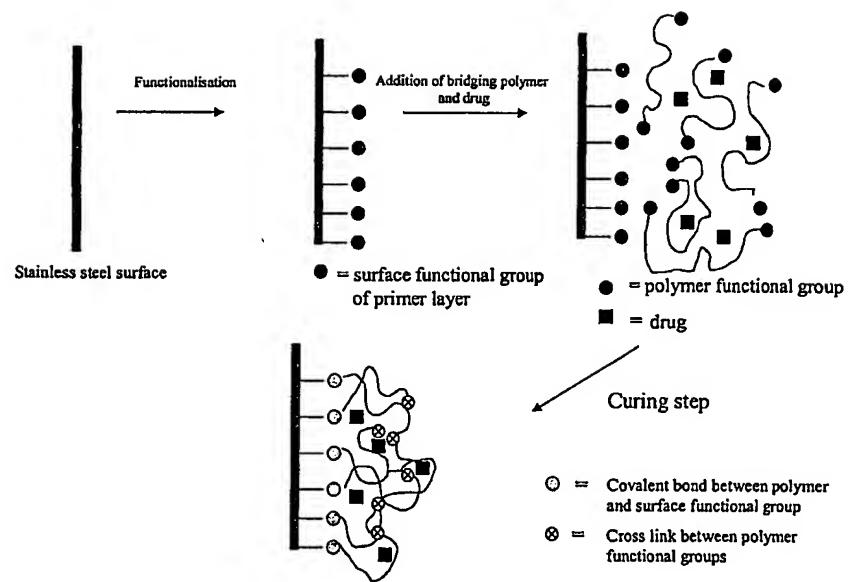


Figure 2

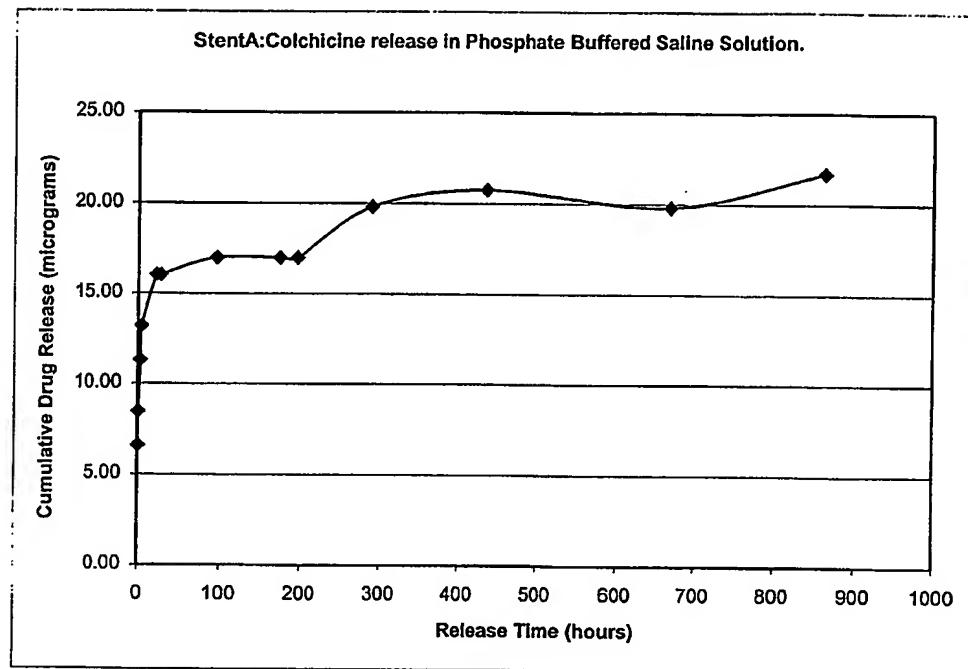


Figure 3

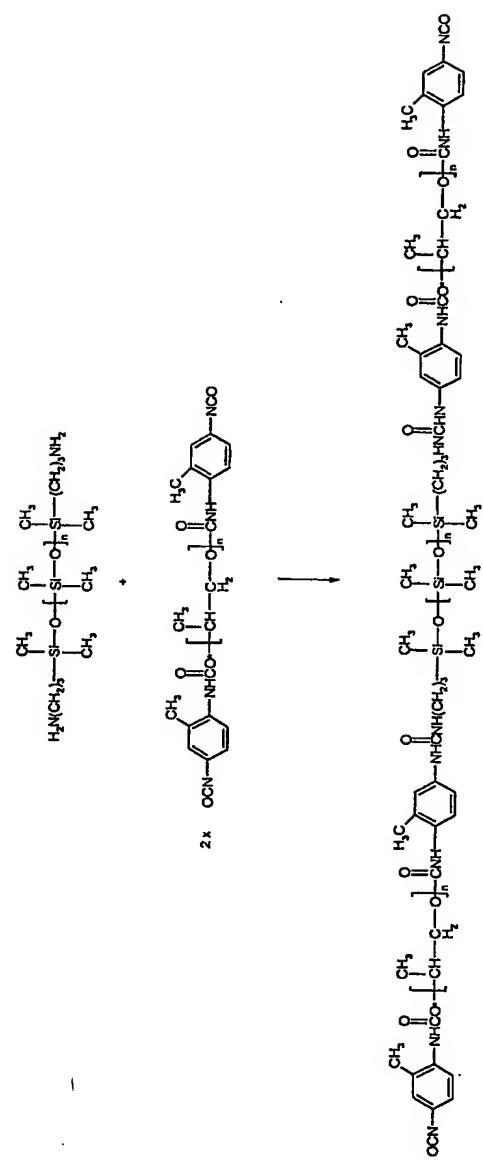


Figure 4

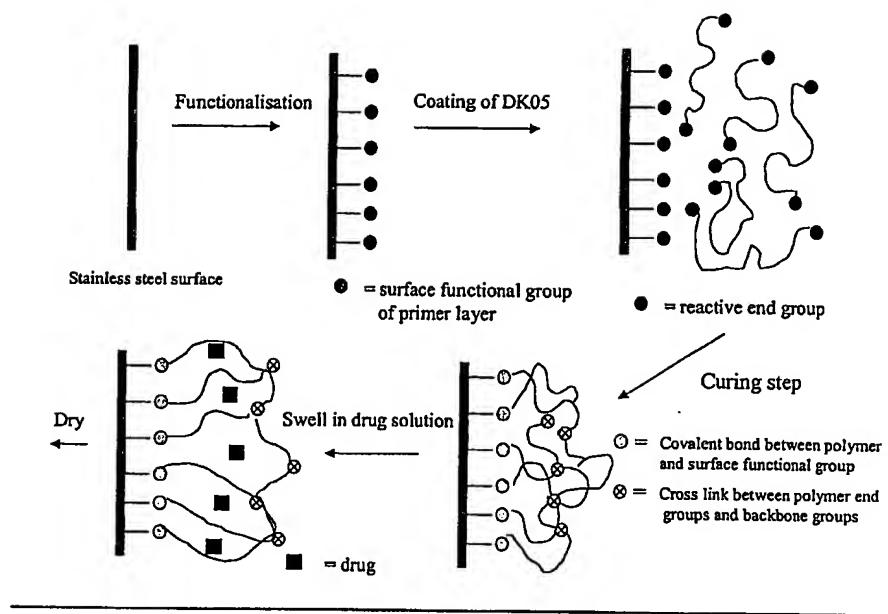


Figure 5

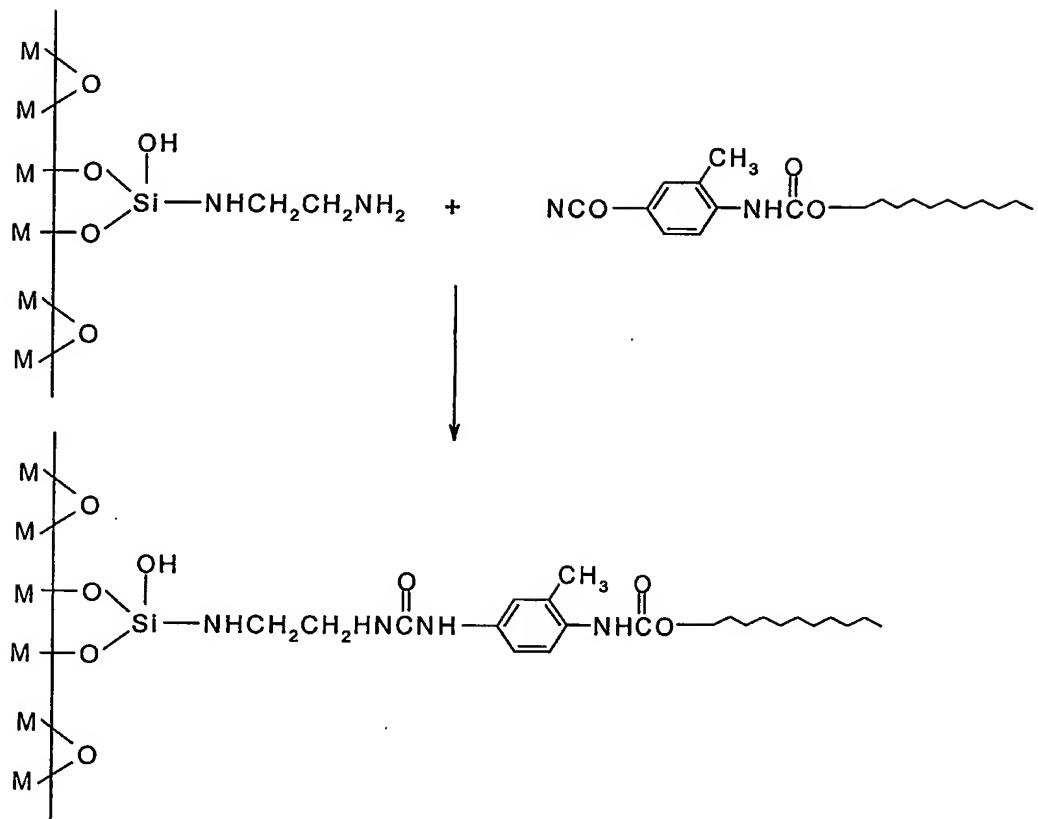


Figure 6

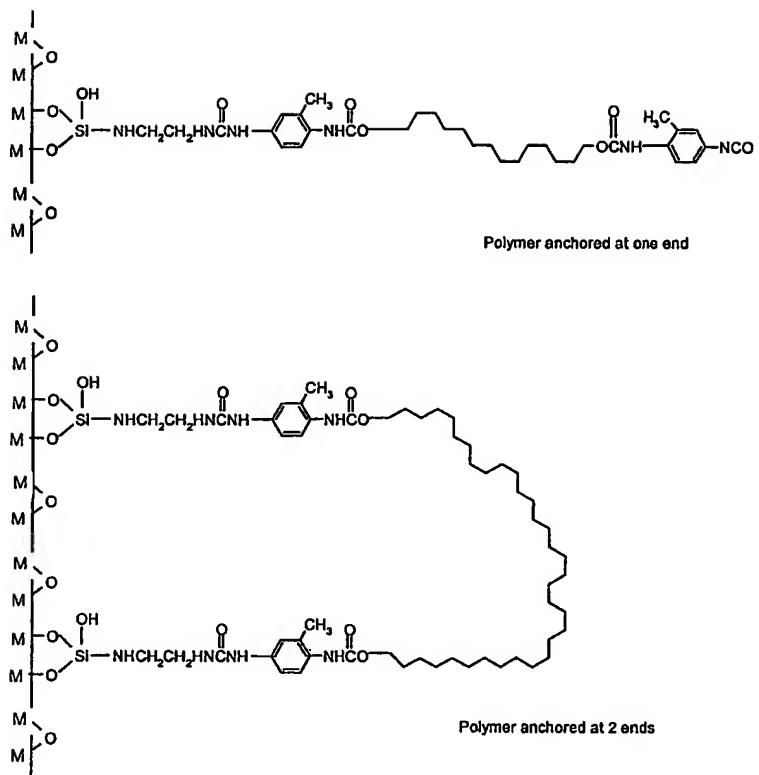


Figure 7

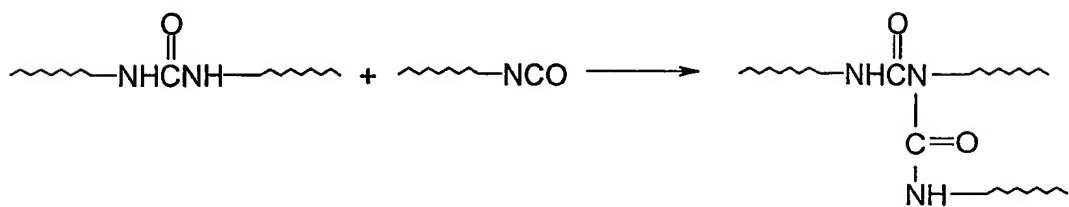


Figure 8

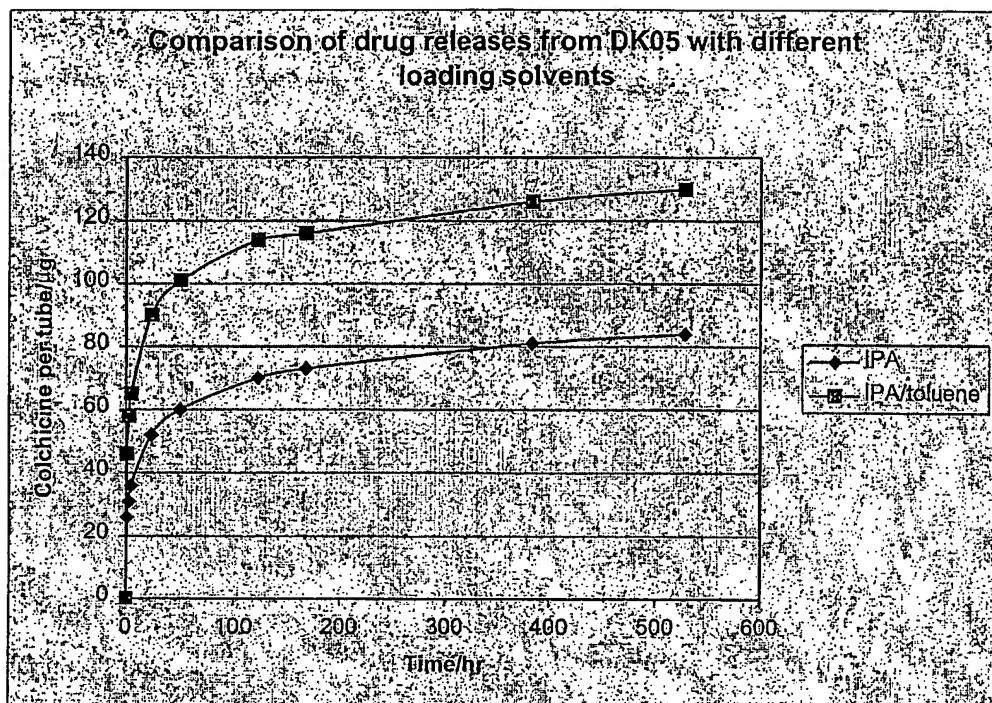


Figure 9

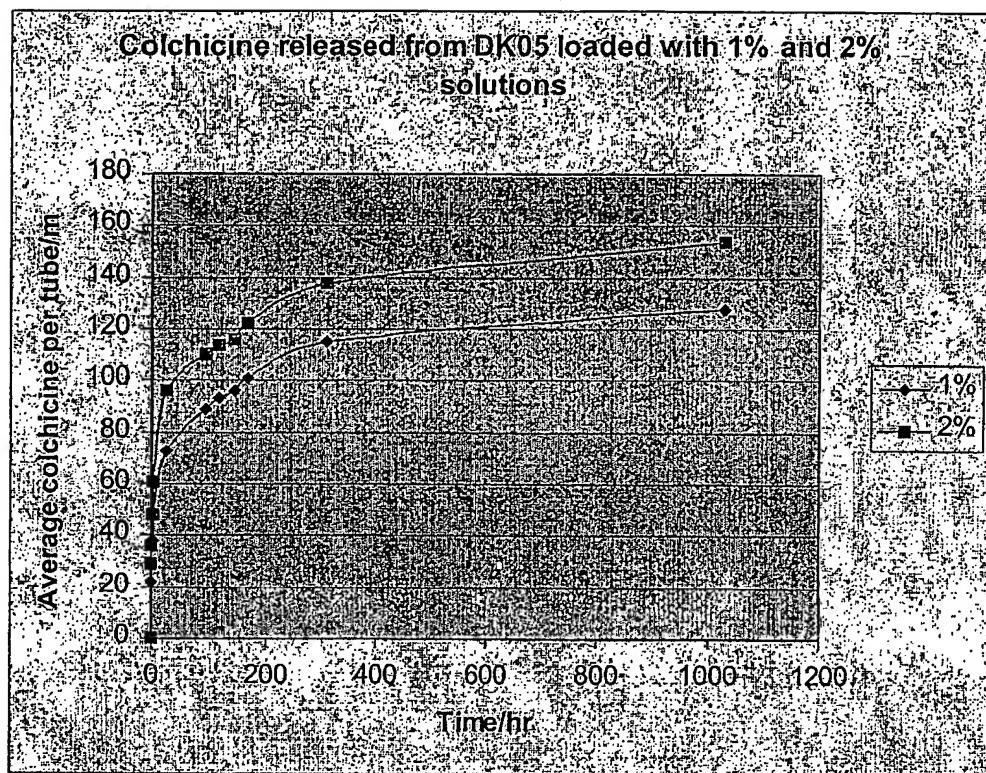


Figure 10

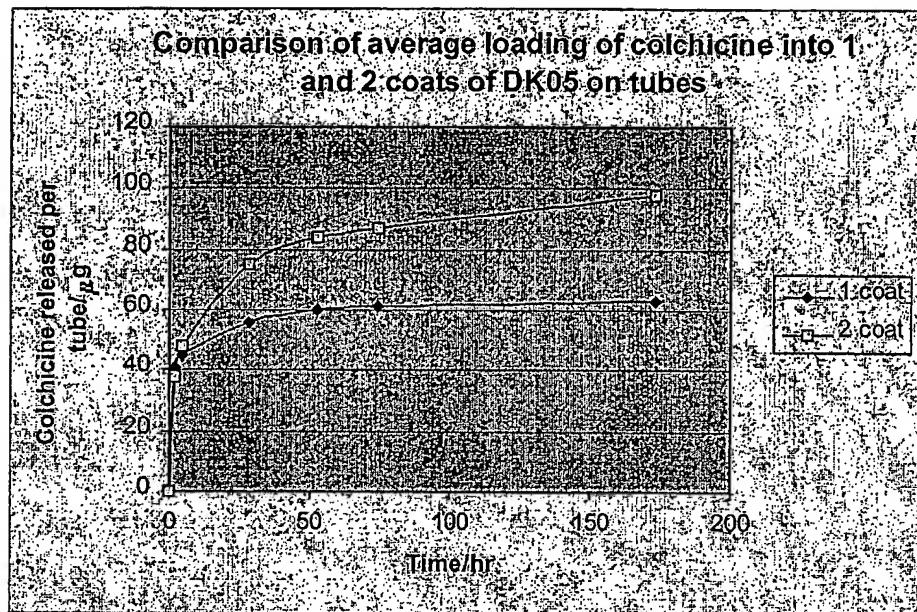
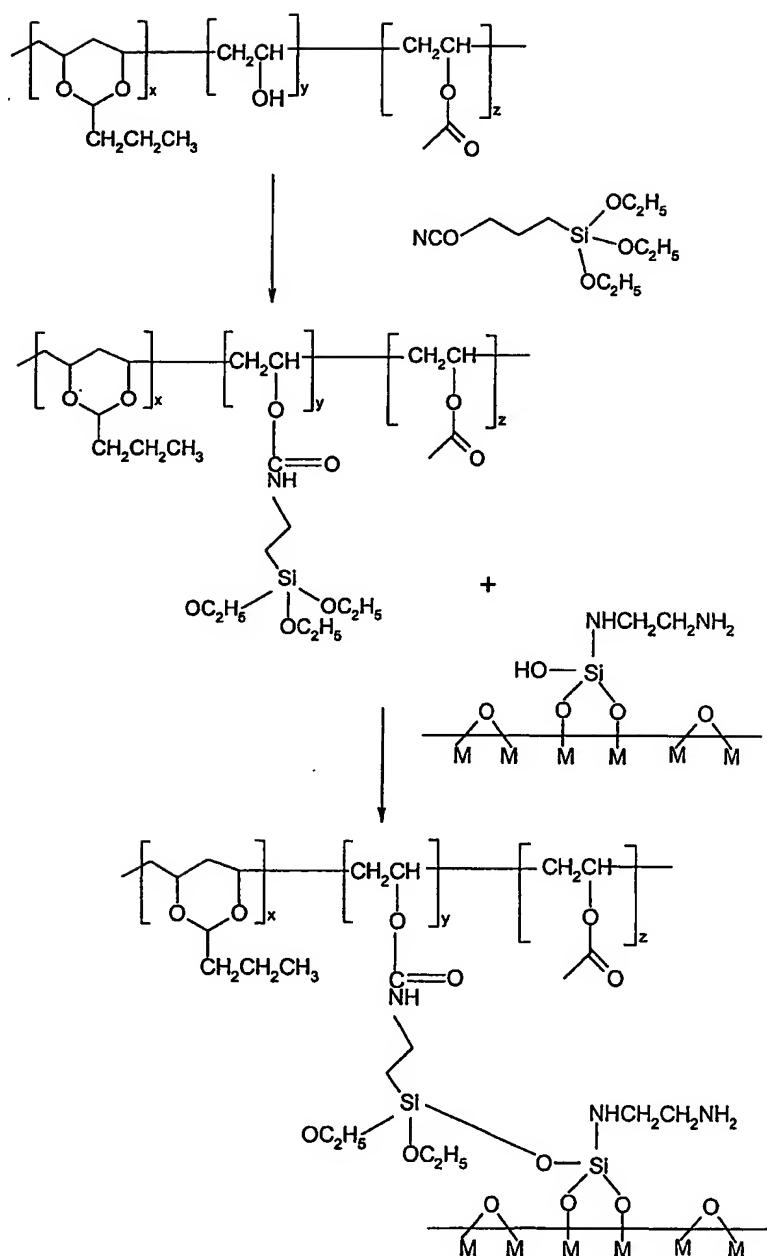
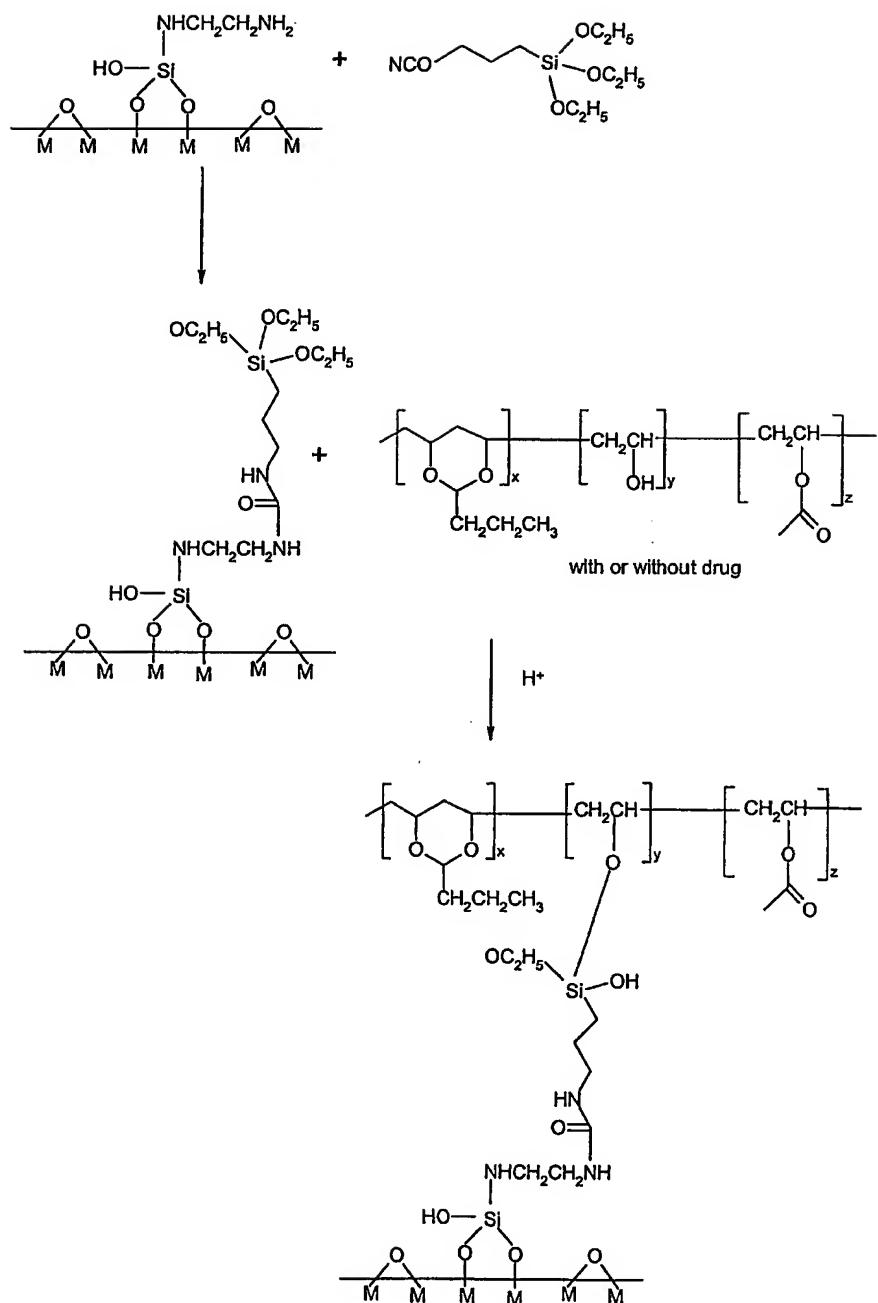


Figure 11

**Figure 12**

**Figure 13**

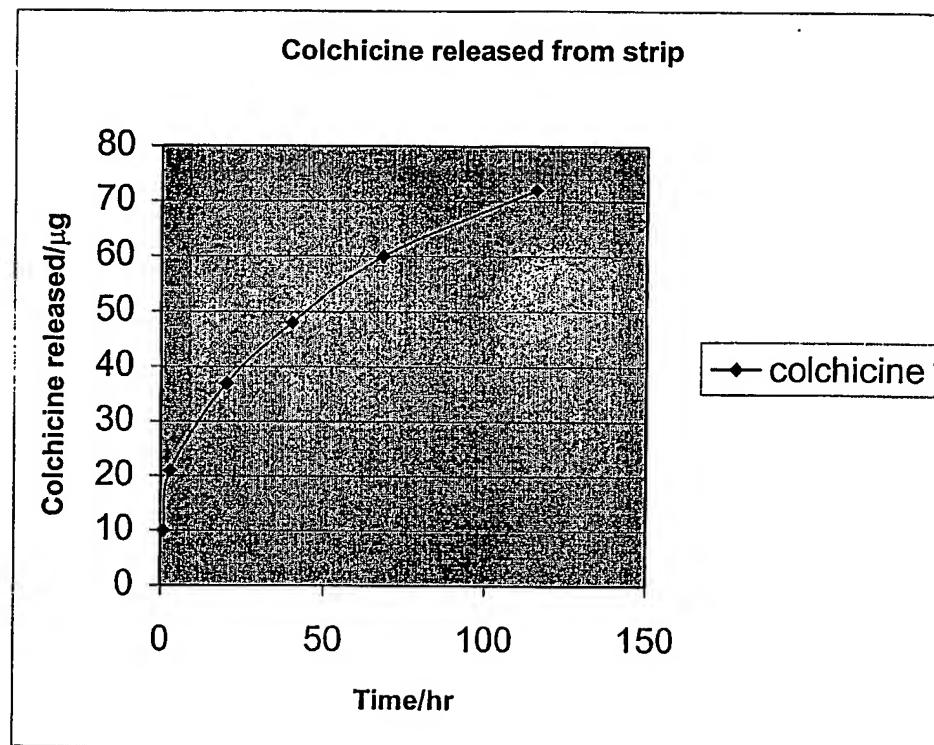


Figure 14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 02/04227

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A61L33/00 A61L33/06 A61L31/10 A61L29/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 A61L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98 55162 A (TAKTAK YOUSEF SAMIH ;AL LAMEE KADEM GAYAD (GB); POLYBIOMED LIMITED) 10 December 1998 (1998-12-10)	1-3, 12, 13, 22, 25-31, 33-40
Y	cited in the application abstract pages 5, 7, 18 example 1 claims 1,2,4,9,11	4-8, 11-15, 23, 24
Y	EP 0 608 095 A (MEDTRONIC INC) 27 July 1994 (1994-07-27) page 3, line 33 - line 54	23, 24
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"8" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

22 January 2003

Date of mailing of the International search report

06/02/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Bourout, G

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 02/04227

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 373 009 A (WINN R ALASTAIR) 8 February 1983 (1983-02-08) abstract column 3 column 4 ---	4,11
Y	US 5 221 724 A (COOPER STUART L ET AL) 22 June 1993 (1993-06-22) abstract table I table II claims 1,33 ---	5-8
Y	US 6 013 855 A (MCPHERSON TIMOTHY ET AL) 11 January 2000 (2000-01-11) cited in the application summary of the invention column 8 -column 11 column 21 claims 1,13 ---	12-15
A	US 4 872 867 A (JOH YASUSHI) 10 October 1989 (1989-10-10) the whole document ---	1-40
A	US 5 430 121 A (PUDLEINER HEINZ ET AL) 4 July 1995 (1995-07-04) the whole document ---	1-40
A	US 6 096 525 A (PATNAIK BIRENDRA K) 1 August 2000 (2000-08-01) the whole document -----	1-40

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/GB 02/04227**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: partially 1-40 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the Invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: partially 1-40

Present claims 1-40 relate to an extremely large number of possible methods. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a limited proportion of the methods claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. In particular, claim 1 refers to articles in general, and to polymer coupling without any further specification as to the nature of this polymer. Therefore, the search has been restricted to the specific disclosures of the application.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intelational Application No
PCT/GB 02/04227

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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